Handing over the PDS to Panchayats and Municipalities

4176. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to hand over the PDS to Panchayats and Municipalities at local level;

(b) whether Government are examining the possibilities of handing over the PDS to Gram Samities specially organised for the purpose;

(c) whether any State Governments have experimented on an experimental basis or as a pilot project for the system expressed in (b) and (c) above; and

(d) if so, what is their experience and if not, whether Government intend to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

The implementation of Public Distribution System is the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. While the Central Government is responsible for procuring and making avilable, at affordable prices, PDS commodities to the States/UTs, the operational aspects of further distribution to the consumers under the PDS, including management of Fair Price Shops(FPS), are matters under the administrative jurisdiction of the State Government/UT Administration.

The issue of entrusting the management of Fair Price Shops (FPS) to the elected Panchayats and Nagar Palikas was discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers on Basic Minimum Services held on July 4th and 5th, 1996 in New Delhi. The Conference felt that the actual running of the FPS by the elected Panchayats and Nagar Palikas need not be insisted upon.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Orissa have reported that they have taken a decision to give priority to Gram Panchayats in appointment of retailers under PDS and distribution of rate at Rs. 2/- per kg. to BPL families and at Rs. 4/ - Per kg. to BPL families through Gram Panchyats is running satisfactorily.

Decontrol and exclusion of sugar from PDS

4177. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decontrol and exclude sugar from Public Distribution System; and

(b) whether Government would seriously consider dropping the proposal to decontrol sugar considering the fact that decontrol of sugar will lead to exorbitant price rise of sugar and creat undue hardships to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) In the context of the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee and the consultations held with States/UTs, the matter is under examination in the Government.

Potency of Pollo Vacciness Administered in the Country

4178. SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Will the Minister of HELATH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) wheter oral polio vaccines which had lost potency were administered to children in India;

(b) if so, whether Government will be able to identify those children to whom spurious vaccines were adminsitered and take steps to revaccinate them with potent vaccine; and

(c) whether Government would come forward to order a high level enquiry regarding this spurious vaccine procured from Belgium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEATH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT AZHILMALAI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The vaccine used under the programme was not spurious. The children to whom the vaccine, which had lost its potency, was administered are being identified from avilable records. Government of Utter Pradesh has been asked to revaccinate all such children.

A high level technical committee was constituted immediately after the incident of administration of vaccine which had lost its potency in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh came to the notice of the Government. The Committee has submitted its report and follow up action is being taken.

Child's Death due to use of Paracetamol

4179. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Hindustan Times on 10th May, 1998 titled "one child died, 17 serious after taking paracetamol";

(b) if so, the details thereot;

(c) whether many children had to be hospitalised over the ten days' period who after being treated for mild fever, went into convulsion and lost consciousness on being given course of paracetamol;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether the drugs have been tested in the laboratory; if so, whether some poison was found therin; and

(f) if so, the results and subsequent action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILITY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) As per the information avilable with the Government, 35 cases of Acute Renal Failure were admitted in Kalawati Saran Children Hospital and AIIMS, New Delhi during the period 1.4.98 to 18.5.98 with unusual clinical syndrome and having symptoms of acute fever, vomiting diarrhoea followed by Anuria. Out of them, 28 are reported to have died. As per the information provided by the relatives of patients 29 patients were resident of Distt. Gurgaon.

(e) and (f) A statment (*See* below) indicating the details of samples of drugs, taken by Drugs Control Authorities for testing, on the basis of suspicion that these drugs were prescribed/administered/distributed to the children by the Medical Practitioners Chemists & Druggists is annexed., 29 samples were sent to Govt. Testing Lab. Of the samples tested, 20 samples have been declared to be of standard quality whereas 2 samples were reported to be not of standard quality by the Govt. Analyst, Haryana, for the reason that the active content was found to be less than the labelled amount. The samples were additionally put on test for "Toxicity" and were found to be complying with pharmacopocial specifications and adulterants like "Ethylene glycol" and "Diethyleneglycol" were also found to be absent.

Senior Drugs Inspector Haryana at Gurgaon has initiated steps for further investigation against the defaulters under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 & Rules thereunder on the basis of reports received on 2 samples of drugs which have been declared to be not of standard quality by the Govern Analyst, Haryana.